

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amended the claims as shown on the attached sheets.

CLAIMS 53813

1. (original) A process for carrying out a reactive distillation in the presence of a heterogeneous catalyst which is suspended as disperse phase in the liquid, wherein
part of the catalyst-containing suspension is continuously discharged from
the column and
is treated in a work-up stage and
at least part of the worked-up catalyst is returned to the column.
2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst is discharged from the column during operation of the column.
3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the worked-up and/or fresh catalyst is fed into the column during operation of the column.
4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein structured packing is used as internals in the region in which the catalyst is located in the column.
5. (original) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein some of the catalyst particles adhere reversibly to the packing used.
6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein wire mesh is used as packing.
7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein roughened wire mesh is used.
8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein trays having wide openings are used in the region in which the catalyst is located in the column.
9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the catalyst is separated off in the middle region of the column and is later fed

CLAIMS 53813

back in.

10. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the catalyst is separated off at the bottom of the column and is later fed back in.

11. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein separation devices which are effective in the longitudinal direction are installed in the column.

12. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein the catalyst is separated off by filtration, flotation or sedimentation.

13. (original) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein a crossflow filtration is carried out as filtration.

14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the catalyst which has been separated off is regenerated by washing with a caustic alkali, a base or a solvent, by calcination or by another method.

15. (currently amended) ~~The use of a process as claimed in claim 1 any of claims 1 to 14 for~~ wherein the reactive distillation is an esterification esterifications, acetal formation, etherification, aldolization or hydrogenation formations, etherifications, aldolizations or hydrogenations.

16. (currently amended) ~~The use of a process as claimed in claim 1 any of claims 1 to 14 for~~ comprising the aldolization of acetone and citral to form pseudoionone.